

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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FROM AMBASSADOR YOUNG TO DR. BRZEZINSKI AND DEPUTY
SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER

E.O.11652:N/A
TAGS: SHUN, PORG, IN
SUBJECT: CONSULTATION WITH INDIA ON POSSIBLE HUMAN
RIGHTS INITIATIVES

REF: USUN 5671 (1977)

1. SUMMARY. THE VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA,
AND HIS PARTY, AFFORD AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY (IN
THE OPINION OF USUN) TO INITIATE HIGH-LEVEL OPEN-ENDED
DISCUSSIONS ON UN HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE, INVOLVING
THE PRESIDENT. IT IS DOUBTFUL WHETHER ANY SERIOUS
FURTHER STEPS IN HUMAN RIGHTS PROMOTION IN THE UN
SYSTEM CAN BE TAKEN WITHOUT INDIAN SUPPORT, AS THE LIMITS
OF THE WEO AND FRIENDLY OTHERS ALLIANCE WAS TESTED IN
THE LAST GA ON THE ISSUE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER.
END SUMMARY

2. SINCE THE REDEMOCRATIZATION OF INDIA LAST YEAR THE
INDIAN DELEGATION AT THE GA AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS
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PAGE 02 USUN N 02398 101753Z

COMMISSION (HRC) MEETINGS HAVE GENERALLY DISPLAYED THE
FOLLOWING CHARACTERISTICS IN THE FIELD OF THE PROMOTION
AND EXPANSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS MACHINERY OF THE UN:
-- FRIENDLY SKEPTICISM ABOUT ADDING NEW POSITIONS OR
AGENCIES TO THE UN, REFLECTING THEIR FEAR (HELD IN
COMMON WITH MANY OTHER NON-ALIGNEDS) THAT SUCH
POSITIONS WOULD INEVITABLY ONLY ADD TO THE TOP-HEAVY

BUREAUCRACY, THE HIGH-COST, AND THE WESTERN BIAS
OF THE SECRETARIAT. ADDITIONALLY, THE GOI IS
UNDERSTANDABLY WARY OF THE TERM "HIGH COMMISSIONER,"
A LEGACY OF THEIR OWN HISTORY OF RULE BY BRITISH
"HIGH COMMISSIONERS."

-- A DESIRE TO PROMOTE, TO THE DEGREE POSSIBLE THROUGH
THE UN, THE CREATION OF "NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS" FOR
THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.
IMPLICIT (BUT CONSCIOUS) IN THIS TO THE GOI IS
THE BELIEF THAT THE INTERNATIONAL MACHINERY
CANNOT BECOME SIGNIFICANTLY MORE EFFECTIVE UNTIL
THERE IS A GREATER SERIES OF NATIONAL INFRASTRUCT-
URES.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS: THAT THE PRESIDENT RAISE, IN A
GENERAL AND OPEN-ENDED WAY AND IF APPROPRIATE, WITH
THE PRIME MINISTER THE POSSIBILITY OF EXTENSIVE JOINT
CONSULTATIONS, IN NEW DELHI, WASHINGTON, NEW YORK AND
GENEVA, LOOKING TO THE PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN
THE UN. THAT THE PRESIDENT OR OTHER US OFFICIALS
EXPRESS TO THE PRIME MINISTER OR OTHER MEMBERS
OF HIS PARTY THE APPRECIATION AND GREAT INTEREST OF
THE USG IN THE INDIAN INITIATIVES ON NATIONAL
INSTITUTIONS, AND SUGGEST THAT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO
CONSULT PRIOR TO THE MEETING IN SEPTEMBER
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PAGE 03 USUN N 02398 101753Z

IN GENEVA. (THE BUILDING OF NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
CAN BE SEEN AS AN EXTENSION TO THE WHOLE WORLD OF THE
HELSINKI BASKET THREE CALL FOR NATIONAL MONITORING
GROUPS, WHICH COULD PROVIDE A MUCH BROADER BASE FOR
ANY FUTURE PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.) THAT THE
PRESIDENT OR OTHER HIGH US OFFICIALS AS THE PRIME
MINISTER OR OTHER MEMBERS OF HIS PARTY TO SHARE WITH
THE US THE BEST AND LATEST INDIAN THINKING ON HOW TO
PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGH THE UNITED NATIONS,
AND INDICATE OUR WILLINGNESS TO FOLLOW INDIAN
INITIATIVES. END RECOMMENDATIONS. YOUNG

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